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72. (Amended) the method of claim 71, further comprising, prior to transmitting the ultrasound signal, introducing a contrast agent into the body so that at least some of the detected echoes of the transmitted ultrasound signal comprises reflections from the contrast agent.

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83. (Amended) the method of claim 82, further comprising, prior to transmitting the ultrasound signal, introducing a contrast agent into the body so that at least some of the ultrasound reflectors from which the ultrasonic echoes are received comprise the contrast agent.

93. (Amended) the method of claim 89, further comprising, prior to transmitting the ultrasound signal, introducing a contrast agent into the body so that at least some of the ultrasound reflectors from which the ultrasonic echoes are received comprise the contrast agent.

REMARKS

Claims 28-107 have been presented for examination. Claims 28-30, 32-39, 42-46, 48, 50-55, 58, 71-93 and 95-107 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,984,881 to Ishibashi *et al.* Claims 30, 34, 72, 83, 93 and 94 have also been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as being indefinite. Applicants note with appreciation that claims 31, 40, 41, 47, 49, 56, 57 and 94 would be allowable if placed in independent form and if the Section 112 rejection was obviated.

The disclosed embodiments of the invention will now be discussed in comparison to the applied reference. Of course, the discussion of the disclosed embodiments, and the discussion of the differences between the disclosed embodiments and the subject matter described in the applied reference, do not define the scope or interpretation of any of the claims.